

Appl. No. 09/552,461
Amdt. dated January 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Feb. 24, 2003

Amendment to specification:

Please replace the second paragraph on page 5 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

A still further object of the invention is to provide monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies highly specific for the peptide epitopes of the present invention which may be utilized in ~~diagnostic testing~~ detecting procedures to determine the presence of an antigen ~~is in a sample serum.~~

Please replace the last paragraph on page 17, beginning "The Ho-Hi-Ho epitopes of the present invention..." and continuing at the top of page 18, with the following amended paragraph:

The Ho-Hi-Ho epitopes of the present invention can be used in diagnostic tests, such as immunoassays, to detect viruses, microbes and malignant cells. Immunoassays, in their most simple direct sense, are binding assays. Immunoassays can detect the presence of a protein as well as determine the concentration of said protein. Certain preferred immunoassays are various types of enzyme linked immunoabsorbent assays, radioimmunoassays, immunofluorescence and surface plasmon resonance. Immunohistochemical detection using tissue sections is also particularly useful. However, it should be appreciated that detection methods are not limited to such techniques, and Western blotting, dot blotting, FACS analyses, and the like may be used.